

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1637
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GENEVA ALSO FOR USDEL/COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SGEN, EGEN, AORG, SCUL, SEDU
SUBJ: THIRD COMMITTEE--ITEM 75, DECADE FOR WOMEN, GENERAL DEBATE

1. SUMMARY. THE GENERAL DEBATE ON ITEM 75 CONCLUDED ON
DEC 8 WITH AN UNEXPECTED STATEMENT BY MRS. SIPILA,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL, CENTRE FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, OUTLINING THE
REASONS WHY SHE IS OPPOSED TO THE MOVE OF THE WOMEN'S UNIT
TO VIENNA. THE FIVE RESOLUTIONS UNDER THIS ITEM WERE ALL
ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE GENERAL DEBATE ON ITEM 75
ON WHICH STATEMENTS OF AT LEAST 70 DELEGATIONS WERE HEARD,
MRS. SIPILA, ASYG, CSDHA, MADE A STATEMENT OF THE REASONS
WHY SHE DID NOT APPROVE OF THE INCLUSION IN DOCUMENT
A/C.5/31/34 OF THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE WOMEN'S UNIT
BE MOVED TO VIENNA. SHE CITED THE NEED TO PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION
OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING
TIES WITH THE OPERATIONAL UNITS IN NY, THE NEED TO MAINTAIN
CONTACT WITH THE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROJECTIONS
AND POLICIES (CDPPP), THE IMPORTANCE OF INTER-AGENCY
COORDINATION, THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTACT WITH DIPLOMATIC
MISSIONS IN NY, AND THE GENERAL LACK OF G77 REPRESENTATION
IN VIENNA, THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESS TO THE MASS MEDIA,
AND, FINALLY, THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE CONTACT WITH DELEGATIONS
AND OTHER HQ BODIES FOR THE PREPARATORY WORK OF THE 1980
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CONFERENCE.

3. THE GENERAL DEBATE WAS MARKED BY POLITICAL RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF NEARLY ALL DELEGATIONS. ONLY ONE DELEGATION, IRAQ, MADE WPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE IWY RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ZIONISM. THE IRAQI DELEGATE MADE LENGTHY COMMENT ON THE NEED TO RESIST ZIONISM AND COLONIALISM AND NOTED THAT CONSIDERABLE PARTS OF THE WORLD CONTINUED TO SUFFER UNDER THE YOKE OF ZIONIST OCCUPATION. THE IRAQI ALSO PRONOUNCED IN FAVOR OF THE TRANSFER OF THE WOMEN'S UNIT TO VIENNA.

4. NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS UNDER THIS ITEM WERE CARRIED ON OPENLY IN SEVERAL INFORMAL MEETINGS AND THERE WERE NO CONFRONTATIONS. THE DELEGATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMB SHAHANI, CAN BE CREDITED WITH INSURING THAT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PROGRAM FOR THE DECADE, WHICH WAS POTENTIALLY THE MOST CONTENTIOUS, WAS KEPT FREE OF UNDESIRABLE POLITICAL ELEMENTS. ALL FIVE RESOLUTIONS (EACH REPORTED SEPTEL) WERE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.
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